1995

SANDY ISLAND CAMP

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Superlative Summer: With a seasoned staff and sensational weather, Sandy Island enjoyed a very successful season in this its 97th year of operation. The quality of vacation and the near-unanimous satisfaction of our campers was unparalled.

Thanks go to my executive council, all of whom returned from 1994. George Pacheco, my assistant director, continued to handle the bookkeeping chores flawlessly, and his effort and counsel on innumerable items is both valued and essential to the successful operation of the camp. Similarly, I'd like to thank my managers and their assistants who provided a continuity and stability rare in such seasonal situations. Tremendously appreciated were chef Jeanne Sheridan (3rd yr.), program's Scott Carlsten (3rd yr.), waterfront's Joe Tenczar (7th yr.), and service's Wayne Griffin (9th yr.); their combined efforts made Sandy Island Camp run smoothly. Thanks also go to the Boston YMCA administration, especially the Camping Branch's executive director Terry Orr, for orchestrating a large scale, successful lagoon rebuilding this spring, and for numerous details during the season. Also appreciated were his assistant, Jill Gary, and the gang at Northwoods Camp (Marty, Anne, and Mike McCarthy) for their cooperation and assistance.

1995 was marked by a rebirth of interest in Sandy's physical plant. With the Todaro Fund for the Lodge Activity Center stalled out at $22,000 (or 25% of its goal) the decision to swim rather than sink was endorsed in the form of a **Capital "Campaign for the Island"**. Initiated by 9th week camper Lynn Holbein, a committee of campers representing every week of the summer was formed. With the advice and expertise of Terry Orr, a plan was formulated, involving a series of weekly orientations held at the director's residence on Sunday mornings; a special thanks goes to my wife Carole for her considerable part in hostessing and making these events so successful. Smaller face-to-face camper solicitations continued all week, with much personal sacrifice of vacation-time (as well as financial resources) given willingly by many of our campers. Keys to the plan were the personal interaction between the director and the committee, and between the committee and the general campership; it is personally appreciated. Another key was the focus on long-overlooked areas of the island's physical plant, such as the old lodge itself, the ballfield & bleachers, the dining hall, and the beach lavatory/shower facility. Though slow-starting, soon the campaign flourished; the Todaro Activity Center was completely pledged for by the middle of the summer, and the aforementioned concerns are 77% pledged for at the present time. If by next spring we can show physical progress, then I feel we will parlay that energy to near-universal support, easily attaining the remaining pledges to fund completely all phases of the project.

Other items of note during 1995:

The **housing changes** forced by the renovation of Old North into camper accommodations went very smoothly; several minor improvements in Old North's closets & bathroom ventilation should make it a desirable camper accommodation. With a separate bath and shower, and the flexibility to use the cabin as a single-or-multi-family unit with 3 or 4 bedrooms, the venerable Old North will continue to be a vital part of Sandy's accommodations.

Our **Leave of Absence** (L.O.A.) policy continues to accomplish its intended purpose of allowing veterans a year off without losing the seniority right of a guaranteed cabin, with the added benefit of exposing new campers to our unique camping experience. Slightly fewer requests were made this year despite liberalizing the guidelines; several of these were solely to experience another cabin without the risk of losing their traditional cabin if they desired to return to the original cabin next year. Several late requests for leaves were honored for medical reasons.

Our **Waiting List** problem seems to be a real one; only diligence and resourcefulness by our office staff filled the cabin vacancies arising from last-minute cancellations and medical leaves of absence. It is vital that all Sandyites realize that new families can and do get into Sandy, and that any and all help with word of mouth referrals is far preferable to advertisements through the media.

A related concern remains—**rates**. There is a small but persistent sentiment that our rate increases are excessive, and are placing a Sandy vacation out of the reach of many young families. Though the reality of inflation is certainly beyond our control, and the particulars of our family situations are infinitely varied, we must control rate increases responsibly. In such a tradition-based, family-oriented institution as Sandy Island, where we receive incredible gifts of time, money, and material, if we lose the confidence of the camper base then we have lost the essence of what continues to make us successful.

In **summary**, 1995 was a great year, showing what an experienced staff and excellent weather can do. Of note was the fact that there were few major breakdowns or emergencies, testimony to both luck and better preventative systems. It also marks the beginning of an era of island improvement, certainly symbolized by the Todaro Activity Center addition, but just as importantly including renovation projects (such as this year's Lagoon and road work) and the Capital Campaign's commitment to the lodge, ballfield, dining hall, and beach lav. This 3-year campaign, coupled with the super summer of 1995, should insure Sandy Island's successful operation well into the future.

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Sandy Island Camp Improvement Fund
1995
S.I.C.I.F. DONATIONS

Robert & Annemarie Bell

Allan & Ellen Breed

Janet & Tom Carmichael

Peter & Peggy Chatellier

Sally Gerasimetz

Dr. Richard & Nancy Ginsburg

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Nancy & Paul Satwicz

George Sawyer

R.L. Scribner, M.D.

Dot & Eliot Silverman

Robert Steward

Harold & Sally Treash

Wai Tye

In Memory of:
E. Fiorillo
F. Gerasimetz

In Appreciation of
Cruise Night Proceeds
Weeks # 1 - 9

Sincere appreciation goes to all of the above donors for their material gifts. and also to so many more who gave of themselves to make Sandy Island the fabulous place for families that it is.

Thanks.

Sandy Island Annual Report
1995 Accomplishments

Operations:

Buildings	-	Constructed new camper cabin (Wee Hoos)
	-	Renovated Old North cabin into camper accomodation
	-	Converted Cozy Cove & Sports Pavilion into staff quarters
	-	Partitioned new room in Shop loft storage area
	-	Porches replaced on 5 camper cabins (Ritz, Manse, Haven of Rest, Snug Harbor,)
	-	Porches built on Sunset View and O.W.L.
Computer Upgrade	-	Installed 486 Central Processing Unit
	-	Upgraded to a 540 MB Hard Drive
Communications	-	Moon Shadow tied into island interphone system
	-	Portable radio assigned to Waterfront/Moon Shadow
	-	Remote radio unit purchased for store/hostel
Decks & Docks	-	Access stairs built to deck near Dockside
Lagoon	-	Drained, dredged, & expanded per NH State Inspection Recom.
Salary Schedule	-	Advanced for entire staff.
Water System	-	Main pump purchased, & back-up pump rebuilt

Service Area:

Bedding	-	(6) Permanent bed frames & mattresses purchased
		(144) bed sheets purchased
		(3) Porta-cribs purchased
Boats	-	Big Sandy's hull scraped and paint touch-up
	-	Salty Dog stalling problem resolved
	-	Sandy II hull and boot stripe repainted; fenders purchased
Brush	-	Chipper rented and brush removed
Buildings	-	Shop and Boat House exteriors stained
Cabins	-	Curtains/Rod program continued
	-	Several cabins stained (Cantabridgian, ...)
	-	Many cabins exterior trim painted
Electricity	-	Honda Generator purchased
Fire Extinguishers		10 Pressurized water-filled units purchased
Front Dock	-	Cement repair

1995 Accomplishments (Cont.)

Lavatories	-	Roll-type paper towel dispensers installed
	-	Maxi-Roll toilet paper dispensers (3) installed
	-	South Lavatory interior repainted
Trash barrels	-	22 barrels & tops purchased
Recycling Program		Cardboard removed from island; no longer burned
		Grease removed from island
Road Work	-	Barge load of gravel purchased, distributed, & leveled
Septic	-	New tank for north mini-lav and Cozy Cove installed
Vehicles	-	Received Jeep Cherokee donation from Rob/Joy Erickson
	-	Purchased 4x4 Chevy Comanche

Kitchen Area:

Baker's Oven repair extensively investigated
Bowls & Pitchers purchased
Curtained coffe pot storage area
Dishroom and Pot Sink sprayers installed
G.F.I.'s purchased and installed
Floor tiles (@ 24) replaced
Ovens moved under hoods
Camper refrigerator procurred
Salad dressing containers and utensils purchased
Tablecloths purchased

Program Area:

Cash Register purchased for store
Craftshop table purchased for tie-dying
Karaoke machine purchased
Microphone (wireless) repaired
Schoolhouse floor repainted
Store G.F.I. electrical outlet installed

Waterfront Area:

Communications - Portable for waterfront purchased;
- Ski boat radio purchased (to be installed)
Life Preservers (36 type I's) purchased for launch vessels
Paddle Boat purchased
Rope purchased for perimeter & swimming lane
Ski Boat windshield repaired
Water Ski Vests (2) purchased